

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-003(b)
Gas Line and Condensing Trap**

Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.

PRS History: PRS 2-003(b) consists of the former location of a 205-foot section of a 3-inch stainless steel gas line (identified by ER Project personnel as line 119) and a trap that collects condensate that were used to carry gaseous effluent from the Water Boiler Reactor from 1944 to 1974. Off-gases from the Water Boiler Reactor contained low levels of cesium-137, iodine-131, technetium-99, and strontium-90. Approximately once every quarter through 1961, the condensing trap was cleaned. There is no indication that chemicals were stored or used at this PRS. The gas line and condensing trap were decommissioned in 1986; soil beneath these structures was also excavated because cesium-137 was detected in the soil during decommissioning activities. Soils containing low levels of radioactivity were left at a depth of 5 feet, then covered with 7 feet of clean fill.

PRS 2-003(b) is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action because additional subsurface soil samples need to be collected before a determination can be made.



Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 02-003(b) burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. The site does not have a surface component, and there is potential for erosion or scouring. The site does not contain debris that could enter the flood watercourse. This site does not contain structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 02-003(b) was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. Additional characterization samples were collected at associated PRS 01-009(c) during September 2000. The data has not yet been validated or reviewed.

Related Documents:

"TA-2 Water Boiler Reactor Decommissioning (Phase I)," LANL Report LA-10890-MS, October 1986.

"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.

"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.